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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 26 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and with regard to the matrix of the Committee, has the honour to submit herewith additional information in relation to the compliance of Cyprus with the resolution (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 26 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

1. As regards points 1-3 of page 10 of the Matrix (Measures to account for production, Use and Storage), it is noted that Cyprus has ratified a number of pertinent Conventions, e.g.:

(i) Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968
(ii) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972.
(iii) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material of 1980
(iv) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993.
(v) The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1996.
(vi) The Safeguards Agreement to the NPT of 1970
(vii) The Additional Protocol of 1999 to the Safeguards Agreement of the NPT.

It is further pointed out that with respect to national legislation in these fields, the Department of Labour Inspection (Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance) is the Regulatory Authority for the implementation of the *Protection from Ionizing Radiation Law of 2002* and the Regulations issued under the Law. This legislation is fully harmonized with the relevant Euratom Directives and the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (IAEA).

The above legislation provides, inter alia, for the establishment of the Radiation Inspection and Control Service (RICS) within the Department of Labour Inspection (DLI). The licensing of any activity to import, export, transport, provision, possession, use, transfer of possession, shipment, production, storing, recycling, reuse, disposal, etc. of radioactive sources or of the construction of nuclear installations or for any practice involving ionizing radiation is the responsibility of the RICS. The latter also conducts relevant inspection activities.

Under the above legislation and the relevant Conventions ratified, the possession, manufacture, etc., of nuclear weapons is prohibited and non compliance is a punishable offence. Regular reporting is submitted to the IAEA.

2. In relation to point 21 on page 11 of the Matrix, the word "subsidiary" should replace the word "secondary".

It is further noted that the Department of Labour Inspection is the Competent Authority for the application of the Dangerous Substances Legislation, which provides for the Classification, Packaging and Labeling of Dangerous substances and for the implementation of the relevant EU Regulation 304/2003. Pursuant to this legislation, a Committee has been established to examine all issues deriving from this legislation.

The Dangerous Substances legislation does not prohibit the use of any chemical substance as a chemical weapon, but it creates the framework for the safe placing on the market of such substances and aiming at the protection of the public and the environment. However, in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, which has been ratified by Cyprus, the manufacture and possession of chemical weapons is prohibited in Cyprus.

3. With regard to point 16 on page 11 (IAEA Safeguards Agreements), it is noted that Cyprus ratified a) the Safeguards Agreement of 1970 to the NPT in 1973, by Law No. 3/1973 and b) the Additional Protocol of 1999 to the Safeguards Agreement to the NPT in 2002 by Law No., 27(III)/2002.

4. In relation to point 18, page 11 (Nuclear Materials and Other Radioactive Sources), it is noted that the Department of Labour Inspection has made the necessary arrangements with the Customs and Excise Department and Airline Companies for the appropriate control of shipments (import, export, transit) and illicit trafficking of radioactive sources at all points of entry. In addition, the Department of Labour Inspection implements programs and conducts campaigns for education, information and training on ionizing radiation matters. It also takes measures to strengthen the capabilities of the System for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety in Cyprus.

All matters concerning nuclear weapons mentioned or pointed out in the Matrix prepared for Cyprus by the Committee are fully covered by the existing legislation mentioned above.

5. In relation to point 14 on page 3, (obligations under the BWC), it is noted that Cyprus ratified the BTWC (Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention) of 1972 in 1973 by Law No. 56/1973.

6. With respect to point 13 on page 4 (obligations under the CWC), it is noted that Cyprus ratified the CWC (Chemical Weapons Convention) of 1993 in 1998, by Law No. 8 (iii)/1998. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic is the National Authority of Cyprus (according to Article VII, paragraph 4 of the Convention).

7. As regards point 14 on page 5, (obligations under the NPT), it is noted that Cyprus ratified the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) of 1968 in 1970 by Law No. 8/1970.

8. In relation to point 17 on page 7, (Dangerous Substances Law) the word "subsidiary" should replace the word "secondary".